

Application Serial No.: 09/842,003  
Reply to Office Action dated June 23, 2003

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 2-9 are presently active in this case, Claims 2, 3, and 5 having been amended and Claim 1 having been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer by way of the present Amendment. Claims 6-9 have been indicated as being allowed.

In the outstanding Official Action, the drawings were objected to for not containing the legend "Prior Art." Submitted concurrently herewith is a Replacement Sheet which includes changes to Figure 1 to address the objection. More specifically, the legend "Prior Art" has been added to Figure 1. Accordingly, the Applicant requests the withdrawal of the objection to the drawings.

The Applicant submits that the rejection of Claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) and the rejection of Claim 5/1 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been rendered moot by the cancellation of Claims 1 and 5/1 in the present Amendment.

Claims 2-4 were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 3 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of base Claim 1. Thus, the Applicant submits that Claims 2 and 3 are in condition for allowance. Additionally, the Applicant submits that Claim 4 is in condition for allowance as being dependent upon allowable Claim 3. Furthermore, the Applicant submits that Claim 5, which has been amended to depend only from Claim 2, is in condition for allowance as being dependent upon allowable Claim 2.

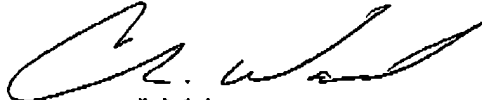
Application Serial No.: 09/842,003  
Reply to Office Action dated June 23, 2003

The Applicant respectfully requests entry of the amendments set forth herein, since the amendments clearly place the application into condition for allowance.

Consequently, in view of the above discussion, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of this application is therefore requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Gregory J. Maier  
Registration No. 25,599  
Attorney of Record

Christopher D. Ward  
Registration No. 41,367

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel. (703) 413-3000  
Fax. (703) 413-2220  
(OSM/MN 10/01)

GJM:CDW:brf  
I:\nt\cdw\204838US3CONT\am2.doc